

WHEREAS, the state of Washington has a long history of leadership in protecting and promoting equal opportunity for people who have disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the 932,000 people with disabilities living in Washington include more than 200,000 individuals without jobs, who have the desire and ability to contribute to their communities and state; and

WHEREAS, in the 21st century, as an emerging global economy, we cannot morally or financially afford to lose the contributions that people with disabilities bring to the workplace; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress by Joint Resolution has designated October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim October 2008 as

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

in Washington State, and I urge all citizens to join me in reaffirming our determination to fulfill both the letter and the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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Signed this 1st day of October, 2008

Governor Christine O. Gregoire